

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, line 2, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The invention is based on a method and an apparatus for collision detection as ~~generically defined by the preambles to the independent claims.~~

On page 1, line 6, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

It is also advantageous that the plausibility flag is transmitted to a processor, where it is evaluated. The plausibility flag can advantageously be maintained for a predetermined length of time, in order to artificially prolong the duration of the flag, so that setting the plausibility flag only briefly is avoided. For this purpose, a hold element which is disposed downstream of the threshold value comparator for the plausibility threshold can advantageously be used. The threshold value comparator for the plausibility threshold can be embodied to be programmable, in order to adapt the plausibility threshold accordingly. The threshold value decider can be expanded with a view to requiring that the

threshold be exceeded for a predetermined length of time before the plausibility flag is set. Brief spikes are thus prevented from leading to the plausibility check.

On page 3, line 7, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings Drawing

On page 3, line 14, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 as follows:

As noted above, an acceleration sensor, a pressure sensor, a temperature sensor, or other deformation sensors may be used as the sensor 1. The output signal of the sensor 1 is transmitted unfiltered to a low-pass filter 3 and to a threshold value decider 2. The threshold value decider 2 compares the unfiltered signal with a predetermined threshold, which can be input at the threshold value decider 2. It is possible for this threshold to be adaptively tracked as a function of the raw data signal. If the unfiltered signal exceeds the threshold predetermined in the threshold value decider 2, then the threshold value decider 2 sets a plausibility flag, which is transmitted to the analog/digital converter 4. The analog/digital converter 4 has a multiplexer, which sends ~~[verb missing]~~ the digitized signals, which the analog/digital converter 4 generates from the filtered signals from the low-pass filter 3, and the plausibility flag to a data stream, which is transmitted to a transmitter block 5, which transmits this data stream, via the

two-wire line 6, to the receiver block 7 in the control unit 9. A current interface is employed here as the transmission principle. However, current width modulation or voltage pulses or radio or light transmissions are also possible. A bus connection is also possible between the control unit 9 and the sensor housing 12. In that case, the transmitter block 5 and the receiver block 7 would be embodied as bus controllers.

On page 9, please amend the abstract as follows:

A method and an apparatus for collision detection are proposed, which serve to make faster plausibility checking of a collision signal possible. To that end, the unfiltered sensor signal is used, and this unfiltered sensor signal is compared with a plausibility threshold. Preferably as a function of the comparison of the unfiltered signal with the plausibility threshold, a plausibility flag is set. This plausibility flag can be maintained for a relatively long time by a hold element. As ~~the sensor, an~~ An acceleration sensor can advantageously be used.

(FIG. 1)